

The Airlifter

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Team Dover honors
Air Force women in spirit of
women's history. Pages 5 and 6.

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TSP TRACKER

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| G Fund | + 0.25% | L 2040 | - 1.35% |
| F Fund | + 0.97% | L 2030 | - 1.12% |
| C Fund | - 0.37% | L 2020 | - 0.92% |
| S Fund | - 0.61% | L 2010 | - 0.40% |
| I Fund | - 4.99% | L Income | - 0.08% |

Percentage and/or amount funds are up or down since the beginning of the month as of Wednesday morning.

WEEKEND WEATHER



Today
Partly Cloudy
High: 90
Low: 74



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
High: 93
Low: 73



Sunday
Scattered T-storms
High: 86
Low: 68



Tops in Blue

'Fly By' show performed Monday in Dover. *Page 13*



**Heritage to
Horizons
Air Force Ball**

Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. at
Dover Downs. Contact squadron
representatives for tickets.

ViewPoints

COMMAND CORNER

Dover celebrates history, sacrifices

Col. Steven Harrison
436th AW commander

This Sunday we will celebrate Women's Equality Day in commemoration of passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Fewer than a hundred years ago, women were not allowed a voice in our government. Thankfully, times have changed!

In less than a month, Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins will deliver Dover's 5th C-17A Globemaster III. A member of the class of 1980 at the Air Force Academy, the first class to include women, she was one of the first female USAFA graduates to pin on brigadier general and is now serving there as the first female commandant of cadets. She was also the first female commandant of the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and is an accomplished mobility pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours in the KC-10, C-17, C-5, KC-135R, KC-135A, and T-37.

Prior the 19th amendment, most of these feats would have been considered improbable if not impossible. Women were not allowed to vote, let alone command in one of the world's most powerful militaries. Yet General Desjardins and those who went before her challenged the ideas of what was possible and changed the status quo.

The Air Force has a history of making the improbable routine. No one in U.S. military history has ever launched bombers on combat missions from aircraft carriers prior to Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle's raid on Japan in World War II. It was also believed that no person could exceed the speed of sound before Capt. Chuck Yeager dispelled those myths on Oct. 14, 1947, one month after the U.S. Air Force became a separate service.

So it's only fitting that, on Sept. 15th at Dover Downs, we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the birth of the United States Air Force with a 'Heritage to Horizons' theme.

There will be no speaker ... just an entertaining tribute to Airmen of the past and present who have made our service great, and all those who continue that tradition into tomorrow. Tickets are available from your squadron representative. Bring your dancing shoes, and I'll see you at the 2007 Air Force Ball!

Speaking of Air Force tradition, the Air Force's Tops in Blue gave a spectacular show to a "sold out" crowd at Delaware State University Monday! It was a wonderful evening that honored our history and heritage by way of a high-energy musical show. Nobody does it better than Tops in Blue, and no one appreciates their excellence and their message more than the Dover Community!

Many thanks to Delaware State University for hosting the show in their Education and Humanities Center, to our many volunteers who made it happen, and to Services and Public Affairs for running point. Great work!

Congratulations to all of our new staff sergeant selects! I know that you worked long and studied hard to earn those stripes. You're taking a big step into the non-commissioned officers corps and the responsibility that comes along with that new paycheck is not one to be taken lightly. You will find that managing your fellow Airmen will be one of the toughest and most rewarding parts of your career, but I know you're up to the charge. We will look to you to keep our mission safely on-task and on-time, continuing the world-class service that is the Team Dover trademark.

Finally, thanks to all of you for your continuing terrific work in support of the Global War on Terror! Twenty-four/seven, around the world and around the clock, our men and women are busy delivering freedom and savings lives. Together we are writing the next chapter of Air Force history, and doing our part to change the world in the process. Sixty years of Air Force excellence ... impressive, but only the tip of the iceberg for the world's dominant air and space power. Tomorrow brings new horizons and accomplishments that are unimaginable today, and you can be certain that Team Dover will be right in the thick of it!

9/11 Fatigue – Not here at Dover AFB

Walt Billings
436th AW antiterrorism officer

As we quickly approach the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, the President recently conceded the American people are experiencing 'war fatigue,' but, not here at Dover Air Force Base.

The chilling reality is that we are now facing an enemy which is ideologically committed to do whatever is necessary to inflict maximum damage and mortal harm to our Nation and its citizens.

A year ago this month, British law enforcement agents arrested 24 suspected terrorists of plotting to commit mass murder on an unimaginable scale. Their plan was to blow up 10 commercial passenger planes over the Atlantic Ocean heading from the United Kingdom to the United States.

Closer to home, in May, as the men and women of the 436th Airlift Wing were conducting the Wing Change of Command ceremony to welcome Col. Steven Harrison and his family to the Eagle Wing, news broke of the FBI foiling a terror plot to attack Fort Dix, N.J.

Subsequently, we learned the terrorist cell that was plotting to 'kill as many U.S. Soldiers as possible,' had

conducted surveillance of Dover AFB several months before but were discouraged by the hard-target security signature of the installation.

The bottom line is: al-Qaida is and will remain the most serious terrorist threat to our homeland, as its central leadership continues to plan high-impact plots against our Nation.

Webster's Dictionary defines fatigue as 'weariness or exhaustion from labor, exertion or stress.' As the men and women of the Eagle and Liberty Wings wage war on terrorism at home and abroad, I'm amazed by the energy, enthusiasm and ability to meet challenges head-on; no signs of fatigue or slowing down from my view.

Dover's unrelenting pursuit of excellence in antiterrorism and force protection is unparalleled throughout the command. The past six years have proven to be challenging and demanding for protecting our installation and deployed forces from a variety of emergent threats.

Nonetheless, the men and women of the 436th and 512th Airlift Wings are fully engaged in our Nation's Global War on Terrorism. Our ability to detect, disrupt, respond and recover from a terrorist incident is crucial to the execution of the Department of Defense mission at home-station and around the world.

The Director of National Intelligence recently stated, "The U.S. Homeland will face a persistent and evolving terrorist threat over the next three years."

History has shown that terrorists prefer to attack soft, weak and unprotected targets. For that reason, we cannot afford to let our guard down or become complacent; we must continue to be alert to our surroundings and report suspicious activity immediately to the 436th Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk at 677-6664, the Office of Special Investigations at 677-2110 or the wing antiterrorism office at 677-4926.

"Our ability to detect, disrupt, respond and recover from a terrorist incident is crucial to the execution of the Department of Defense mission at home-station and around the world."

MISSION FOCUS

- Safety fix and fly aircraft
- Prepare and deploy people
- Move cargo
- Return America's fallen heroes with dignity, honor and respect

WINGMAN FOCUS

17 days

since an airman assigned to Dover Air Force Base was stopped while driving under the influence of alcohol as of Wednesday. Driving after drinking should never be an option. Have a designated driver, call a taxi, or on weekends, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 677-6000 for a ride home.

Eagle Wing salutes the following groups for going at least 100 days DUI-free: Wing Staff and the 436th Operations Group

BY THE NUMBERS

- C-5 home station departures: 16
- C-17 home station departures: 5
- AMC missions: 68
- Cargo handled: 1,457 tons
- Passengers: 298

Numbers reflect week of August 16 - 22
Source: 436th AW Command Post

THE ACTION LINE

• 677-4368

• 436wing.actionline@dover.af.mil

The Action Line is a tool for everyone on base. I am sincerely interested in hearing your suggestions, comments and complaints.

If you have a concern and you haven't been able to resolve it through normal channels, call me at 677-4368 or send an e-mail to 436wing.actionline@dover.af.mil

Together we can make the Dover Team even stronger - thanks for your outstanding support.

Operations Group 677-2225
Maintenance Group 677-2224
Mission Support Group 677-2221
Medical Group 677-3330

Col. Steven B. Harrison
436th Airlift Wing commander

ON THE COVER

The Air Force Tops in Blue performed at Delaware State University's Education and Humanities Theater Monday at 7 p.m. Staff Sgt. Daniel Rutherford sings 'Before the Next Hard Fall,' to a packed house. (Photo by Airman Shen-Chia Chu)

TheAirlifter

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DoverNews



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace

Dover Air Force Base Middle School children gathered outside school Wednesday. It was the first day of school and the children checked each others' class rosters to see what classes their friends had and what classes they had together.

Dover AFB school bells ring again

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace
436th AW Public Affairs

'Ring-a-ling' sounds the bell and the children line up smartly outside their classrooms all eagerly waiting to meet their teacher and classmates. It's here ... the summer break has passed and school is back in session on Dover Air Force Base and throughout the Caesar Rodney School District.

Tuesday was orientation for Welch Elementary and Dover AFB Middle Schools. Wednesday was the first day of school.

Orientation morning at Welch was highlighted by chatter and chatter of excited children as the school posted class rosters at 11:30 a.m. Swarms of children hurried to the school

doors to find out who their teacher and classmates would be.

Some parents swung by the school on their lunch break and called the rosters back to their children eagerly waiting at home.

Indeed, the excitement of the children Tuesday morning spelled 'e-a-g-e-r' to onlookers. Still, after spending nearly three months away from studies, some children have mixed feelings about returning.

"The summer was boring," said Saaya Loucks, a 5th grader at Welch Elementary School and daughter of Sgt. E.J. Loucks, a local Marine Corps recruiter. "I'm excited to go back to school but not so excited about the school work. I know I have to work hard because when I graduate, I'm going to be a doctor."

Being a doctor is a lofty goal for the elementary school child, but a goal that would make her mother, Miko, proud, she said. The pride that Mrs. Loucks feels seems to be a recurring theme around Dover Air Force Base schools.

"I am the proudest principal of the proudest school in the state of Delaware," said Ernestine Adams of Dover AFB Middle School during her school's new student orientation Tuesday. "We're number one in the Caesar Rodney School District for reading and writing, and number two for math. Also, our sixth grade curriculum is over-all number one in the district."

Though boasting about her school's success, the principal conceded that without the unwavering support of parents, her school couldn't be successful.

The children returning to school brings to mind a different message for Tech. Sgt. Gary Stansberry, 436th Security Forces Squadron police services.

With children walking to and from school again, Dover AFB members are reminded to be cautious of speed limits and of the presence of children.

"Once school starts, we have patrols set up in the mornings and afternoons, Monday through Friday," said Sergeant Stansberry. "Security Forces will be conducting traffic and speed enforcement. Keep in mind, although the Housing Speed limit is 20 mph, the School Zone speed limit is 10 mph."

Indeed, safety is always the primary concern in any endeavor on every worldwide Air Force base. With safety in mind, and pride and excitement overflowing, Wednesday kicked off what is promising to be another terrific year for the schools on Dover AFB.

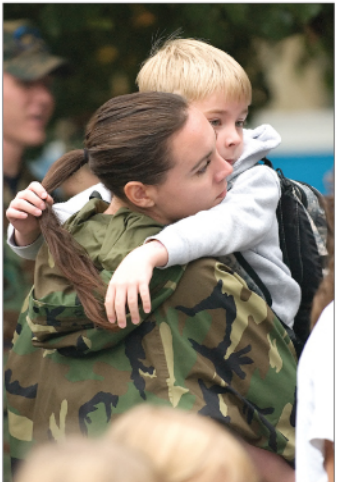


Photo by Justin Kite

Jaime Davis, wife of Airman 1st Class Andrew Davis, hugs her son, Aiden, as she sends him off to his first day of school at Welch Elementary School Wednesday. The six-year old started first grade this year.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to all graduates of the Airman Leadership School, class 07E

The following individuals garnered additional awards:

Senior Airman Blake Flora,
436th MDG
John Levittow Award

Staff Sgt. Gary Grammer,
436th LRS
Distinguished Graduate Award

Senior Airman Jessica Sena,
436th LRS
Academic Achievement Award

Senior Airman Blake Flora,
436th MDG
Leadership Award

SUBMISSIONS

Helirider column

The *Airforce* offers birth announcements to military and civilian employees and their family members assigned at Dover. To submit an announcement, send an e-mail to airlifter@doover.af.mil with the title "Helirider Submission" and include:

- Baby's full name and gender
- Date of birth, weight and height
- Full name and ranks of mother and father, if applicable
- High-quality digital photo (at least 4x6 inches, preferably an "above-the-waist" shot with a clear view of your baby's face)
- Your telephone number

In The Spotlight column

The *Airforce* also offers the opportunity to recognize achievements of military and civilian employees and their family members in our "In The Spotlight" column.

E-mail airlifter@doover.af.mil with the title "Spotlights Submission" and include:

- Full name of person being recognized, include ranks of military or civilian employees
- Proper title of award/achievement and reason earned (include school/organization name, significant accomplishments that led to recognition)
- Date of award/achievement
- Telephone number

Submissions will be published on a space-available basis and may require some editing.



Excitement Education Teamwork

The Civil Air Patrol offers challenging opportunities for youths 12-18 years old, chaplains, aerospace education enthusiasts and adults with an interest in homeland security, search and rescue, disaster relief and humanitarian missions.

You can become a CAP volunteer! For more information visit our Web site at www.cap.gov or call 1-800-FLY-2338.



INTEGRITY • VOLUNTEER SERVICE
EXCELLENCE • RESPECT

Dover honors women's contribution to force

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace
436th AW Public Affairs

Team Dover commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and salutes all women here today.

Sunday marks 87 years since the 19th Amendment was passed by Congress.

Since Esther Blake enlisted on the first minute of the first hour of the first regular Air Force duty was authorized for women on July 8, 1948, women have made significant contributions to the Air Force.

"You merely have to open your eyes and look around Dover to see the contributions of our female Airmen," said Airman 1st Class Maria Rodriguez, 436th Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service technician. "The involvement of our female force is everywhere here. I am surrounded by successful female role models. Our female force ranges from Airmen like me to our highest ranking

chiefs and officers."

Airman Rodriguez takes great pride and is humbled by the sacrifices the female Airmen before her made to guarantee the Airmen of her generation have an equal seat at the Air Force table.

"Woman have overcome so much and so many obstacles in our Air Force to prove that we are just as good as any other service member," she said. "Now days, not only are women respected and valued, they are treated just like any male Air Force member."

The road to equality was a long one for women in America.

"The strong effort for women's equal rights is a story of tenacious women joining together to break down the barriers to fairness," said

Margie Porreca, 436th Mission Support Squadron and Federal Women's Program manager. "The passage of the 19th Amendment marked the end of a long road; the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women begun in 1848 when the

women's suffrage movement was formally set into motion with the first women's rights meeting, held at Seneca Falls, New York."

Like Airman Rodriguez, today's Airman can thank early suffragists and affirmative action pioneers for their ability today to fill positions once completely unheard of in our society. Similar role models and opportunities were not as common when Col. Elaine Barron, 512th Mission Support Group commander, initially commissioned.

"When I came in there were very few women who were in the field grades at wing level," she said. "My first base was Columbus, Miss., and female pilots were just starting to be a more routine occurrence but they sure weren't ending up in fighters."

Since she joined in 1979, the Air Force has seen many changes. Even

though women have always had the same rights as their male counterparts, in the timeframe of her career, prejudices sometimes prevailed.

"During my career, the Air Force has always been an equal opportunity employer," Colonel Barron explained.

"On the other hand, individual supervisors didn't always take women seriously."

Though Colonel Barron surpassed earlier prejudices and climbed to a command position, female commanders were significantly less common in years past.

"In 1983, I was working at the consolidated base personnel office (known today as the MPPE)," said Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Branum, 436th MSG superintendent. "We had a new boss coming in and it turned out the major was a woman. She

"You merely have to open your eyes and look around Dover to see the contributions of our female Airmen."

**Airman 1st Class
Maria Rodriguez**
436th LRS technician

To honor the dedication and hard work of Team Dover women, the 436 Medical Group will sponsor a women's health fair and information sharing booth today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the main lobby, first floor of the clinic.

*Women of
History*



Sergeant Blake

*Women of
Today*



Colonel Barron



Chief Branum

*Women of
Tomorrow*



Airman Rodriguez

See WOMEN, Page 6

Dover colonel helps Charleston lean checks

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace
436th AW Public Affairs

The 436th Maintenance Group commander, Col. Robert Hamm, headed south Aug. 6 through Aug. 10 and kicked off 'lean' initiatives at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Charleston chose Dover AFB because of its command-wide reputation for having made huge strides in Air Force Smart Operations 21 programs over the past three years.

"When the 'lean' initiatives began to spin up around the Air Force, Dover immediately took off with several programs and has led the Air Mobility Command since," said Colonel Hamm. "I have been privileged to be a part of many initiatives here."

In addition to the initiatives he implemented at Dover, the colonel went on temporary duty and assisted Charleston AFB in reducing their ability to perform Home Station Checks by 11 hours per check. HSC is a thorough three-day inspection done every 120 days on an aircraft while it's at home station.

Flightline maintenance begins this process by preparing the aircraft for a wash, explained Charleston AFB officials in a news release.

Next, a contractor cleans the aircraft at the wash rack and it is later towed to the HSC hangar for the start of the inspection process. After the inspections and repairs in HSC, it's towed back to the flightline for engine runs. Once the entire process is complete, the C-17 is given back to the aircraft maintenance squadron and scheduled for its next flight.

Prior to the lean event, the HSC process took more than 100 hours to complete. However, after the lean initiatives were implemented, the lean team was able to cut 11 hours out of the overall process. The lean team has action plans to cut down more than 40 additional hours in the future.

To help support the event, Charleston AFB called on Colonel Hamm to be the event's lean facilitator.

Dover AFB has made huge strides in lean projects during the past three years and he helped bring their 'lean' knowledge to Charleston AFB, said officials. Colonel Hamm was instrumental and helped the Charleston team set and reach goals during the event.



Photo by Airman Steve-Cia Chu
Airman 1st Class Rebecca Summerville, 436th Maintenance Squadron propulsion apprentice, inspects an engine. She looks for loose bolts or safety wires and ensures everything is tightened and clamped, there are no leaks and everything functions properly.

"Colonel Hamm brought a standard for us to follow," said 1st Lt. Vince Cammarano, 437 Maintenance Squadron Maintenance Flight assistant commander. "He brought a lot to the table and did a great job at leading us in this lean event."

"Colonel Hamm brought a standard for us to follow. He brought a lot to the table and did a great job at leading us in this lean event."

1st Lt. Vince Cammarano
437 Maintenance Squadron

Before the lean event, many things caused waste and generated extra hours because the C-17 was just sitting and not being inspected or repaired, said officials. One issue was the way damaged gear doors were handled. Previously, the aircraft structural maintenance shop received the bad gear doors after the aircraft was washed. Repairing bad gear doors was a process that took an average of 42 hours. Now, the doors are removed earlier and this provides aircraft structural maintenance Airmen an additional 14 hours of repair time to provide a non-

delayed product for HSC.

"For me, this whole lean event was very education-

al," said Senior Airman Cory Tash, 437 MXS crew chief. "It was great being able to stand back and look at processes and figure out how to apply improvements."

Other improvements made were the organization and location of tools and machinery throughout the HSC hangar to make them more readily available for Airmen to work on C-17s. Before the process was leaned, Airmen averaged 864 footsteps to get equipment, but now with a different layout of available tools and machinery it only takes 291 steps to keep C-17s readily available.

Dover AFB made tremendous efforts to help the men and women working on Charleston AFB, said officials.

"The team we worked with was nothing short of tremendous ... there was a great amount of effort from everyone," said Lieutenant Cammarano. "So far, we've saved more than 1,000 hours of aircraft availability to America and to the war fighter."

(Some information for this story provided by Airman 1st Class Nicholas Pilch, 437th Airlift Wing public affairs)

When a ladder won't do: 512th civil engineers receive bucket truck training

Staff Sgt. Steve Lewis
512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

High above the ground, 512th Civil Engineer Squadron electricians received annual refresher training on electric bucket truck operations Aug. 10 here.

Instruction on maneuvering the truck's long boom arm, checking the truck hydraulics and rotating the individual buckets the electricians stand inside, were covered in the training.

Bucket trucks are used to do work past a certain height, explained Tech Sgt. Raymond Sherwood, a 512th CES electrician present for the refresher. As long as the winds aren't over 25 knots, bucket trucks can reach heights from 50 to 70 feet in the air, he said.

"We use the trucks for anything from replacing hangar lights to working on utility poles," said Sergeant Sherwood. "Whatever we can't get with a ladder, we'll use the bucket truck."

Safety is paramount for both the person operating the bucket in the air and for the individual on the ground, said Staff Sgt. Rodney Rodrigue, who is also an electrician for the 512th CES. A two-person team, he explained, is always required for daily operation.

This safety precaution is also

taken into consideration when verbally communicating possible site mishaps.

"Headache!"

Sergeant Rodrigue explained the word 'headache' is shouted as a warning to anyone below if something is accidentally dropped from the person performing duties in a bucket above.

"That pretty much means if you don't move out of the way, you'll get a headache," he said.

Although the trucks aren't heavily used during a UTA weekend, the refresher training is important, especially for anyone in the squadron going on a deployment, according to Staff Sgt. Ivan Fullerton, an electrician and bucket truck instructor.

One of the electricians who attended the training recalled a recent deployment where he had to use the bucket truck in Iraq.

"I was on an AEF (Air Expeditionary Force tasking)," said Senior Airman Chris Panico. "I used a bucket truck to replace hangar lights for F-16s."

While 512th CES members receive in-depth bucket truck training in technical school, Sergeant Fullerton said the annual refresher keeps electricians and others required to use the vehicle familiar with its operation.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Lewis

Staff Sgt. Ivan Fullerton (right) instructs Senior Airman Chris Panico on the proper ways to lower and raise the boom arm of the electric bucket truck. 512th Civil Engineer Squadron electricians here receive annual bucket truck refresher training so they are prepared to operate the vehicle safely on base or during a deployment.

Feature

TOPS IN BLUE

'FLY-BY' COMMEMORATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY USAF

The 'Tops In Blue' performed a musical tribute to 60 years of proud Air Force history to more than 1,000 guests at Delaware State University Monday night.

*(Left to center) Staff Sgt. Daniel Rutherford and Senior Airman Wallis Payano, along with Tops In Blue female performers sing and dance in the style of jazz to the song, 'Fever.'

*(Right) 1st Lt. Kimberly Robinson and Airman 1st Class Jesse Cox, Tops In Blue swing dance to, 'As Long As I'm Singing.'

Tops In Blue represents one of the oldest entertainment groups traveling and performing wherever U.S. servicemembers are stationed.

*(Left) Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Dack, Tops In Blue vocalist sings, 'Rose Garden.'

*(Right) Capt. Alexander Ruiz, Tops In Blue tour director and violinist fiddles, 'The Devil Went Down To Georgia.'

Performers master the instrumental, vocal, choreography and staging requirements to perform and set up more than 54,000 pounds of staging, lighting, audio and special-effects equipment for every high-energy 90-minute show.

*(Left) Tops In Blues male vocalists charm the audience by impersonating The Temptations with the song, 'My Girl.'

*(Right) Croning his tenor saxophone to, 'Yakky Sax,' is Senior Airman Smith, Tops In Blue musician.

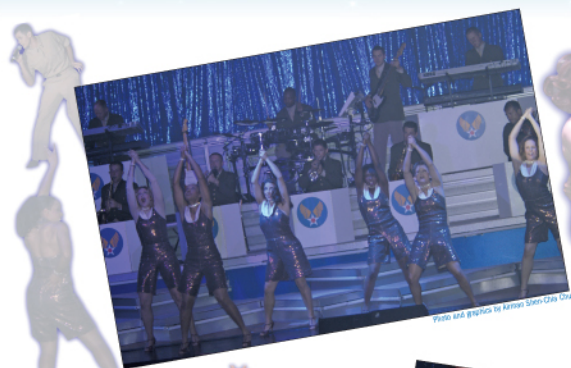


Photo and graphics by Jessica Shev-Dea Cox



Photo by Jessica Shev-Dea Cox



Photo by Jessica Shev-Dea Cox



Sports

Battle of leather 'n lumber – Dover all-night tourney



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace
436th AW Public Affairs

Team Dover first sergeants are scheduled to host their second-annual all-night softball tournament at the base softball fields Sept. 7.

To date, teams from the 436th Civil Engineer Squadron, 436th Security Forces Squadron, 436th Communication Squadron, 436th Logistic Readiness Squadron, 436th Maintenance Squadron, 436th Comptroller Squadron, 436th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 736th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 512th Operations Group have committed to play in the tournament.

"This will be a fun break from the monotony of playing softball in the heat of the day," said Master Sgt. Tangie Ulrich, 436th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant.

Since, to date, her unit does not have a team, the sergeant asked, "Will MSS put together a team?"

The 'real' question is, "What base units have the courage to compete in the event?"

Last year's tournament was a 'battle of the wings' in the end, with the 436th LRS matching guns with Chris Todd and the 512th OG. The final victory went to the Eagle Wing, who trumped the Liberty Wing with a 12 - 5 win.

Who will be this year's champs? Will LRS reign again?

John VanderVen, 436th SFS coach, certainly does not think so.

"I'll give ya' props, you guys can play," he boasted of the reigning champions. "You used to own the yard until I came to Dover."

VanderVen believes that the 'Softball King' title is about to change.

"This year, the winner will be the 'Cops,'" he said. "But at least the other eight (signed-up) teams have the game to participate – who else will come out? And, if you don't want to come get

beaten by my Cops, that's fine, but at least come out and witness the slaughter!"

Joe Kernan, 436th CS coach doubts VanderVen and his team have the skills to match his mighty 'Comm' team. In fact, he would like the opportunity to personally challenge pitcher VanderVen or the 436th MXS pitcher, Joe Mageau.

"I wish there was a home run derby in the tourney," he said. "That trophy would look sweet on my desk. But, if there was one, I'd need VanderVen or Mageau to pitch, they seem to be consistently throw watermelons that I easily pound out of the park every time."

Aaron 'Wisey' Weisenberger, 436th CES, said that home runs are great but the key to winning is a team's pitcher. And, Wisey happens to be his team's pitcher.

"I understand that slow-pitch softball is a hitter's game," he said. "But, the problem is ... you've got to get the ball over the plate in the first

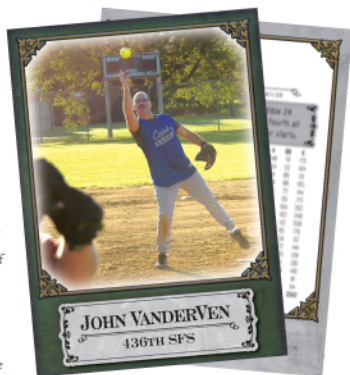
place. That's the problem with all these other teams ... their pitchers can't even throw the ball over the plate."

Pitching strikes is not Wisey's only talent.

"I like to get in the batter's head," he said. "Instead of hobbling back and forth on the mound complaining that the Cops aren't 'tops,' I just pitch, not make excuses. These other teams may have some good players, but it's not likely that any of them will match my 'Engineers.'"

Every coach has pride in his own team and unit. The 'real' winner will be determined on the diamond.

The tournament kicks off at 5:30 p.m. and will play until it's over, said Master Sgt. Winfert Gray, 436th Medical Group first ser-



geant and point of contact for the event.

"The tournament will be a double elimination to crown the champion," he said.

Deadline to register teams is Sept. 5. For more information, call Sergeant Gray at 677-2512.

